

# Don Giovanni an opera filled with classy lovin'

## Don Giovanni

Directed by Brian Deedrick  
Starring Gregory Dahl and Brian Downen  
4, 7 and 9 November  
Jubilee Auditorium

MATT FREHNER  
Editor-in-Chief

"Opera's like scotch. Nobody starts out drinking scotch. In Alberta, it's usually lemon gin," Brian Deedrick says as he sips his homemade coffee and awaits the freezer-delivery boys.

Artistic Director for the Edmonton Opera, Deedrick spends the summer as a tour guide in Germany. During his last stint overseas, however, his '70s-era mustard-orange "hotpoint" freezer decided to go see its maker.

"The meat had that ... grey look too it," he relates.

The pink and purple dashes in his otherwise impeccably coiffed blond hair belie an eccentricity that isn't immediately apparent from Deedrick's well-kept demeanor—that is, until he begins to speak about his latest directing gig, *Don Giovanni*, Mozart's depiction of the last day in the life of history's most famous lover.

"[Giovanni] likes the fat ones in winter, he likes the old ones just to make them feel good about themselves, and he likes the very little skinny ones," Deedrick says. "God knows Don Giovanni would say he's a great lover—

he's most prolific, anyway. When they start announcing how many women he's had and in which countries ... it runs into the thousands.

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BRIAN DEEDRICK

"He's the world's most politically incorrect lover," Deedrick continues. "We should always disapprove of Giovanni, because—look at that—he just loves women and leaves them behind. But women fall in love with this guy. There's something about him that's so unapologetic, uncomplicated and totally shameless. I think the guys see [Giovanni] as the ultimate hero; he's never left [a woman] unsatisfied. It's not that he's a rapist. He works at it to make them believe that they've instituted the seduction."

Copious lover he may be, but it's on his last day that Giovanni discovers

his greater passion, when he accidentally kills the father of his most recent conquest.

"He's not an evil guy, but he loves his women to distraction," Deedrick says. "And then there's this accidental killing—and he finds out that that just really turns him on. That as rich or as powerful as the eternal orgasm is this orgasmic sensation that comes from taking a life, and it begins to spin out of control over that final day."

According to Deedrick, it's in this story that *Don Giovanni* outshines the common view of opera as conservative, inaccessible and dry. With his production, too, his aim is to push the boundaries of opera—and hopefully affect his audience at the same time.

"To me, the worst thing you can do in the theatre, opera, music or whatever, is that by the time [audience members] get into their car, they're already worried about getting home in time for Lloyd Robertson," he says.

"You've got to make images and ideas stay with people; find something that moves us out of the trough that we're so comfortably in. Can we do that with opera? Who knows. But if we're not pushing our own boundaries, then we don't have the right to be trying to push other people's as well," he deadpans, breaking into a laugh at his own expense. "How profound is that? Zounds! Sometimes my eloquence overwhelms me."



These girls know what Halloween is for. Obviously, it's for dressing up like Harry Potter.

Really, now I'm happy to know that there are classy people out there who share my love for the magical world!

And if you want to volunteer for *Gateway A&E* (meetings Thursdays at 5pm in 3-04 SUB), you won't get your picture published in the paper, but you can pretend to famous.

Or something.

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## GENERAL MEETING

The Graduate Students' Association will hold a General Meeting at the **PowerPlant Coffee House** on Wednesday, November 8th, at 6:30 pm

All graduate students are invited to attend and participate in the By-Election of

### COUNCILLORS-AT-LARGE

who will sit on council as representatives of the graduate student community

### Interested in being a councillor-at-large?

Please email a short statement about you and why you want to be a councillor to:  
[andrea.dalton@ualberta.ca](mailto:andrea.dalton@ualberta.ca)